



TALES OF  
THE JEDI  
1 OF 5

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# STAR WARS<sup>®</sup> TALES OF THE JEDI<sup>™</sup>



# STAR WARS® TALES OF THE JEDI

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# **ULIC QEL-DROMA AND THE BEAST WARS OF ONDERON**

Millennia ago, the discovery of hyperspace travel brought the galaxy together, giving birth to a democratic union of star systems known as the Galactic Republic. From the time of its inception, the Republic grew, over thousands of years, to encompass vast numbers of inhabited worlds.

The survival of the Republic depended on two factors: the wise governing of selfless administrators and lawmakers...and the preservation of harmony and justice by a heroic warrior fraternity—the Jedi Knights.

In those glorious ancient days, a great many force-sensitive individuals willingly entered arduous training under accomplished Jedi Masters, taking up the weapons, the knowledge, and the powers of the Jedi Way.

Join us now as we explore the secret histories recorded in the Jedi Holocron—tales of an age when the Jedi Knights were numerous and strong!

**A**RKANIAN... A TUNDRA WORLD WHERE ADVENTURERS AND PROFITEERS PULL DIAMONDS THE SIZE OF IRIDESCENT MELONS FROM THE PLANET'S CORE...

FAR FROM THE MINING PORTS, DEEP IN THE INHOSPITABLE WILDS, A JEDI MASTER NAMED ARGA HAS ESTABLISHED A TRAINING COMPOUND FOR JEDI KNIGHTS. HIS MOST FEARLESS STUDENT IS ULIC GEL-PRAMA.

GOOD RIPOSTE, ULIC!

AH, LAY-- THIS TRAINING DROID'S OLD AND SLOW--

--ANY GREEN WARRIOR CAN ANTICIPATE ITS MOVES!

WELL DONE!

--BUT KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS WITH THE FORCE, ULIC!

SOME SAID ULIC GEL-PRAMA WAS ARROGANT--

**THRUNN!**

--BUT THOSE WHO KNEW  
THE YOUNG JEDI BEST  
SAID HE WAS MERELY  
POSSESSED OF  
BOUNDLESS BOLDNESS.



HHYAAA!

SOMETIMES BOLDNESS  
IS NOT ENOUGH.



PWEE-RRAMM!

UIC!



YOUR  
BROTHER  
LET'S HIS  
COURAGE  
CLOUD HIS  
MIND!



--IF THAT TRAINING  
DROID HAD BEEN USING  
DEADLY FORCE, IT'D BE  
SMOKING RUBBLE  
ABOUT NOW!



TOTT DONEETHA  
SPEAKS WELL, ULIC.  
A JEDI NEEDS  
MORE THAN MERE  
BRAVERY...

OVER-  
CONFIDENCE  
HAS BEEN THE  
UNDOING OF MANY  
A SEASONED  
WARRIOR.

LET THE  
FORCE BE YOUR  
STRENGTH!

YOU'RE RIGHT...AS  
USUAL, MASTER ARCA--



C'MON LAY..  
HAVE SOMETHING  
TO EAT! AREN'T  
YOU  
HUNGRY?

TAKE  
IT EASY,  
ULIC!!!



THE COMBAT-  
TRAINER YOU WRECKED  
S'GOTTA BE  
FIXED.

SIT  
DOWN AND  
HAVE SOME  
NUTMEAT...  
MASTER ARCA  
IS TELLING  
US A GOOD  
STORY!

SIT DOWN  
LAY. THE DROID  
CAN WAIT.

AS I WAS  
SAYING...THE REPUBLIC  
CONTINUES TO GROW. NEW  
SYSTEMS ARE BEING  
DISCOVERED EVERY  
DAY.

GALACTIC  
EXPLORERS RECENTLY  
MADE CONTACT WITH  
ONDERON, A HALF-CIVILIZED  
WORLD THAT IS JUST  
DEVELOPING SPACE  
TRAVEL.

"THE ONDERON SYSTEM CONSISTS  
OF A YELLOW SUN AND THREE  
WORLDS, ONLY ONE OF WHICH  
IS HOSPITABLE TO INTELLIGENT  
LIFE.

"THIS WORLD, WHICH GIVES ITS NAME TO  
THE ENTIRE SYSTEM HAS FOUR MOONS  
IN WILDLY VARYING ORBITS..."

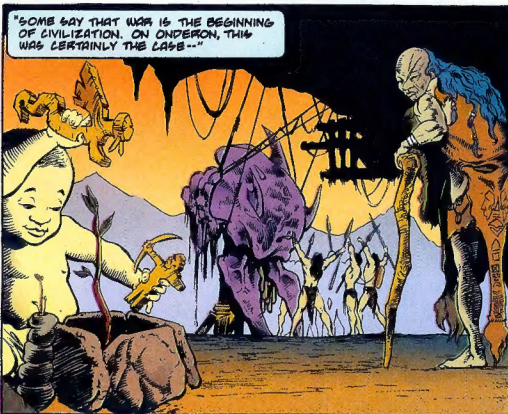
"...THE CLOSEST MOON, CALLED DXUN, HAS AN ATMOSPHERE OF ITS OWN. GEOPHYSICAL CHAOS PREVAILS ON DXUN.


"THE CREATURES THAT HAVE EVOLVED TO SURVIVE THERE ARE A MONSTROUS LOT, SAVAGE IN THE EXTREME.

"EONS AGO THE ATMOSPHERES OF ONDERON AND DXUN WOULD BRIEFLY TOUCH DURING THE SUMMER SEASON OF THE LUNAR YEAR.

"IN THOSE DAYS A NUMBER OF DXUN SPECIES LEARNED HOW TO ESCAPE THE CONFINES OF THEIR LUNAR HOME, AND MIGRATED TO THE PLANET ONDERON."



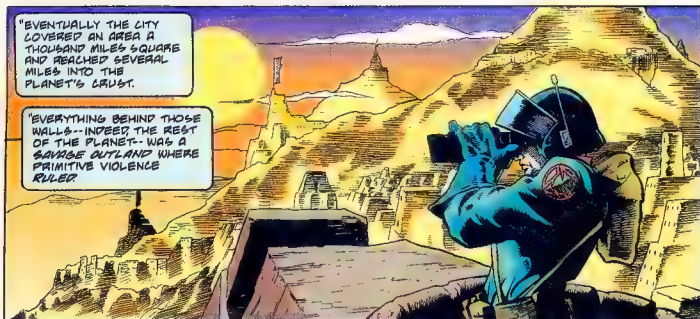




EONS  
PASSED. TRIBAL  
CULTURE EVOLVED  
INTO TRUE  
CIVILIZATION.

THANKS TO  
THE MONSTROUS  
SPECIES FROM THE  
DXUN MOON, ONDERON  
CIVILIZATION DEVELOPED  
IN THE FORM OF ONE  
GREAT WALLED  
CITY..

"A CITY THAT GRADUALLY GREW,  
OVER THE CENTURIES, TO BECOME  
A VAST SPRAWLING FORTRESS  
PROTECTING SEVERAL MILLION  
INHABITANTS."



"EVENTUALLY THE CITY COVERED AN AREA A THOUSAND MILES SQUARE AND REACHED SEVERAL MILES INTO THE PLANET'S CRUST.

"EVERYTHING BEHIND THOSE WALLS--INDEED THE REST OF THE PLANET--WAS A SAVAGE OUTLAND WHERE PRIMITIVE VIOLENCE RULED



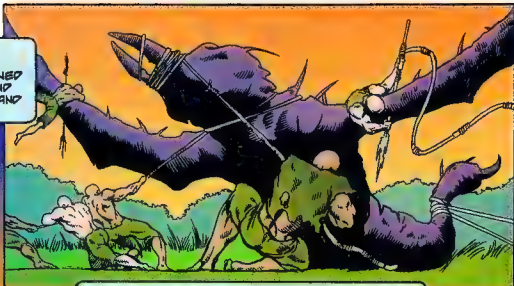
"DURING THE AGES, IT BECAME THE ONDERONIAN'S CUSTOM TO CAST OUT THE GREAT CITY'S LAWBREAKERS INTO THE WILDERNESS--



"AT FIRST THE OXUN MONSTERS PROVIDED QUICK AND EFFICIENT EXECUTION FOR THE ONDERONIAN OUTCASTS...

"BUT AS THE PRACTICE CONTINUED THERE WERE UNFORESEEN CONSEQUENCES FOR THE WALLED CITY OF ONDERON."

"WHAT FOLLOWED NOW SEEMS ALMOST INEVITABLE: THE ONDERONIAN OUTCASTS LEARNED TO SURVIVE IN THE WILDS, AND EVEN SUBDUCE THE BEASTS AND CONQUER THEM.




"A FEW OF THE OUTCASTS MANAGED TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES AS POWERFUL WARLORDS, WITH GREAT ARMIES OF VICIOUS CREATURES AT THEIR COMMAND.



"ONDERON BECAME A DIVIDED WORLD...A WORLD THAT RAPIDLY DEGENERATED TO A STATE OF PERMANENT WAR."





"THE STRUGGLE WAS TERRIBLE  
AND BLOODY, BUT THE GREAT  
WALLED CITY SURVIVED  
BECAUSE ITS TECHNOLOGY  
CONTINUED TO ADVANCE--

"WAVE WEAPONS REPLACED  
GUNPOWDER CANNONS  
ON THE BASTION WALLS.  
THEIR DESTRUCTIVE BEAMS  
COULD TURN AN ATTACKER--  
MAN OR BEAST--INTO  
SMOKING ASH.

"UNTIL THIS VERY DAY,  
ONDRON HAS REMAINED  
A WORLD DIVIDER.

"THE GREAT CITY IS EVEN  
NOW UNDER SIEGE, AN  
ORIS OF CIVILIZATION  
IN A DOMAIN OF CHAOS  
AND DEATH!"



IN KEEPING  
WITH OUR PLEDGE  
TO THE REPUBLIC, THE  
JEDI MASTERS ASSIGN  
ONE OF THEIR  
NUMBER TO BECOME  
THE WATCHMAN  
OF EACH NEW  
SYSTEM...

TODAY  
I'VE ACCEPTED  
CHARGE OF THE  
ONDERON  
WORLDS.



ARE...ARE  
YOU GOING TO  
LEAVE US, MASTER  
ARCA? ...OR WILL  
YOU TAKE US  
WITH YOU?



I'M NOT  
TAKING YOU WITH  
ME, ULIC... BECAUSE  
I'M STAYING  
HERE.

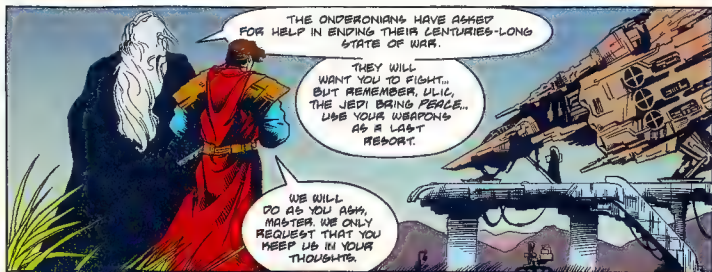
YOU  
ARE GOING TO  
ONDERON!



WHA--?

THE THREE YOUNG JEDI'S ARE  
STUNNED BY THEIR MASTER'S  
PROMISEMENT. SLOWLY IT  
PAINS ON THEM...

AT LAST, AFTER YEARS OF  
TRAINING, THEY ARE TO  
GO FORTH ON A MISSION  
OF JUSTICE!



THE ONDERONIANS HAVE ASKED FOR HELP IN ENDING THEIR CENTURIES-LONG STATE OF WAR.

THEY WILL WANT YOU TO FIGHT... BUT REMEMBER, ULIC, THE JEDI BRING PEACE... USE YOUR WEAPONS AS A LAST RESORT.

WE WILL DO AS YOU ASK, MASTER. WE ONLY REQUEST THAT YOU KEEP US IN YOUR THOUGHTS.



IN THE POWER OF THE FORCE, I WILL BE WITH YOU, ULIC. BUT THIS IS TO BE A TEST OF YOUR KNIGHTHOOD...

YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS MUST MAKE YOUR OWN WAY THROUGH THE DIFFICULTIES YOU WILL ENCOUNTER.

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.



SO IT WAS THAT ULIC QEL-DROMA, HIS BROTHER GAY, AND THE TWI'LEK TOTT DOMEETA LEFT THEIR MASTER ON ARKANIA--

--AND JOURNEYED IN THEIR SHIP THE NEBULON RANGER, ACROSS THE GALAXY TO ONDERON, TO SET UP A JEDI OUTPOST IN THE MIDST OF THAT WAR-TORN WORLD..

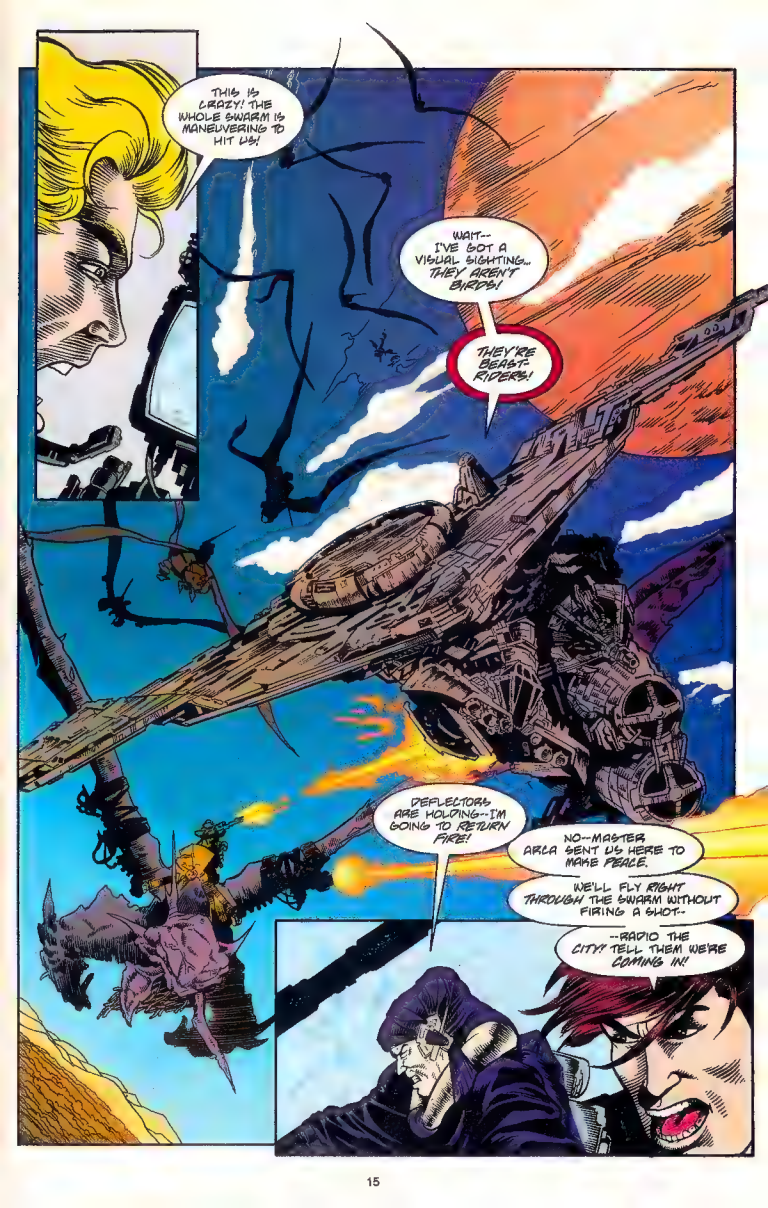
**E**MERGING FROM HYPERSPACE, THE NEBULON RANGER CROSSES THE ORBIT OF THE DYUN MOON AND CIRCUMNAVIGATES THE PLANET ONDERON AND ITS WILD FORESTS--

--TO THE ANCIENT WALLED CITY OF IZIZ.

I'VE GOT  
A FLIGHT OF GIANT BIRDS  
ON COLLISION TRAJECTORY,  
ULLIC!

ANGLE THE  
REFLECTOR SHIELDS,  
TOTT. I'M TAKING THE  
RANGER DOWN ANOTHER  
THOUSAND  
METERS--

RIGHT,  
ULLIC.



THIS IS  
CRAZY! THE  
WHOLE SWARM IS  
MANEUVERING TO  
HIT US!

WAIT--  
I'VE GOT A  
VISUAL SIGHTING...  
THEY AREN'T  
BIRDS!

THEY'RE  
BEAST-  
RIDERS!

DEFLECTORS  
ARE HOLDING--I'M  
GOING TO RETURN  
FIRE!

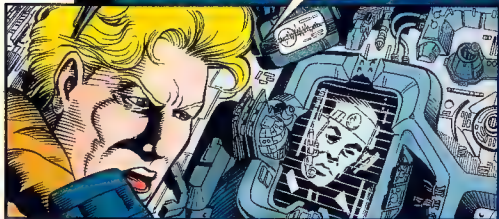
NO--MASTER  
ARCA SENT US HERE TO  
MAKE PEACE.

WE'LL FLY RIGHT  
THROUGH THE SWARM WITHOUT  
FIRING A SHOT.

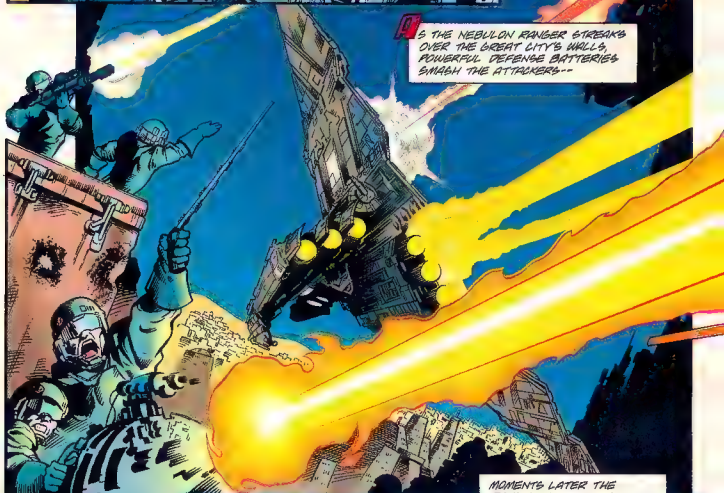
--RADIO THE  
CITY! TELL THEM WE'RE  
COMING IN!

**F**ORTUNATELY IZIZ  
IS EXPECTING THE  
JEDI MISSION.

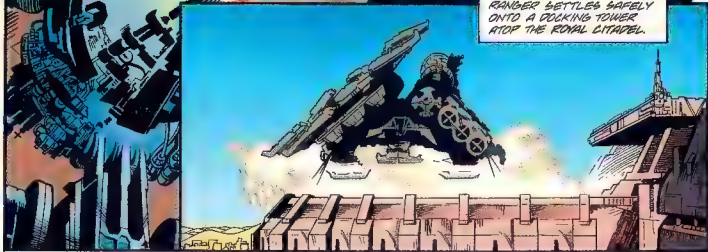
OHAY, ULIL--  
WE'RE CLEARED TO  
THE ROYAL SPACE  
DOCK!



**A**S THE NEBULON RANGER BREAKS  
OVER THE GREAT CITY'S WALLS,  
POWERFUL DEFENSE BATTERIES  
SMASH THE ATTACKERS--



MOMENTS LATER THE  
RANGER SETTLES SAFELY  
ONTO A DOCKING TOWER  
ATOP THE ROYAL CITADEL.



**D**ISEMBARKING, THE THREE YOUTHS ARE MET BY NOVAR, THE ONDERONIAN MINISTER OF STATE.

WE ARE JEDI KNIGHTS SERVING UNDER MASTER ARCA OF ARKANIA.

JEDI! WE WELCOME YOU IN THE NAME OF QUEEN AMANDA OF ONDERON!



THIS IS MY BROTHER GAY... AND THIS IS--

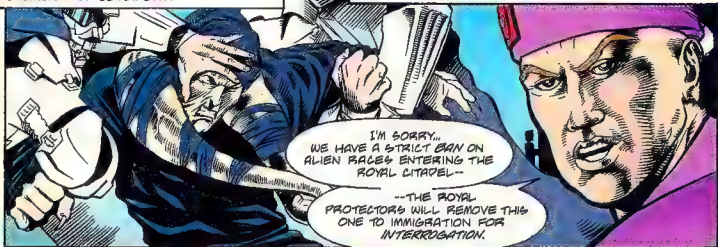
--THE TWI'LEK TOTT DANEETA!

AT YOUR SERVICE!



**F**OR LONG AGES THE ONDERONIANS HAVE LIVED IN ISOLATION FROM THE REST OF THE GALAXY.

ALTHOUGH THEY ASKED TO BE ADMITTED TO THE REPUBLIC, THEY HAVE YET TO ENTIRELY SURRENDER THEIR ENTRENCHED SUSPICION OF OUTSIDERS.



I'M SORRY... WE HAVE A STRICT BAN ON ALIEN RACES ENTERING THE ROYAL CITADEL--

--THE ROYAL PROTECTORS WILL REMOVE THIS ONE TO IMMIGRATION FOR INTERROGATION.

DIDN'T I SAY IT? WE ARE JEDI! LET HIM GO!

**SHRUMMM**



BE CAREFUL! IF YOU ARE TRULY JEDI, MORTAL THREATS ON YOUR PART WILL CAUSE SEVERE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS!

NOVAR-- THE QUEEN ORDERS THE THREE JEDI TO THE THRONE ROOM-- AT ONCE!



**A**ND SO THE YOUNG JEDI KNIGHTS ARE ESCORTED INTO THE PRESENCE OF AMANDA, QUEEN OF ONPERON...

THE QUEEN SEEMS FAR OLDER THAN HER SEVENTY YEARS. HER DAUGHTER GALIA, HEIR TO THE THRONE IS ONLY EIGHTEEN...

LET THE HORN-HEAD GO. I SENSE THE FORCE IN THEM. THESE THREE ARE JEDI--



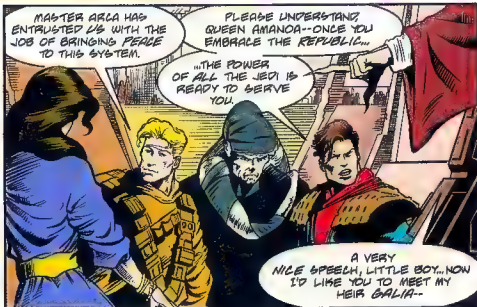
--BUT WE WERE EXPECTING A GREAT JEDI MASTER--NOT UNTUTORED YOUTHS!



MASTER ARCA HAS ENTRUSTED US WITH THE JOB OF BRINGING PEACE TO THIS SYSTEM.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, QUEEN AMANDA--ONCE YOU EMBRACE THE REPUBLIC...

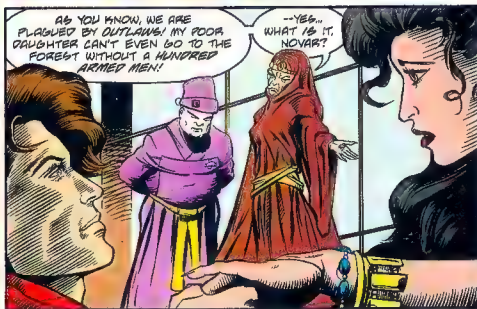
"THE POWER OF ALL THE JEDI IS READY TO SERVE YOU."



A VERY NICE SPEECH, LITTLE BOY... NOW I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY HEIR GALIA--

AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE PLAGUED BY OUTLAWS! MY POOR DAUGHTER CAN'T EVEN GO TO THE FOREST WITHOUT A HUNDRED ARMED MEN!

--YES... WHAT IS IT, NOVAR?



SOME OF  
THE RIDERS  
HAVE FOUND A  
WEAKNESS IN THE  
PERIMETER, YOUR  
HIGHNESS.

THEY'RE  
APPROACHING THE  
CITADEL!

REALLY?  
THEY'VE BREACHED OUR  
DEFENSES?

HOW CAN THAT  
BE? --UNLESS WE  
HAVE TRAITORS IN  
OUR MIDST!

VERY WELL,  
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO  
PROVE THE POWER OF YOUR  
PROMISES, JEDI--

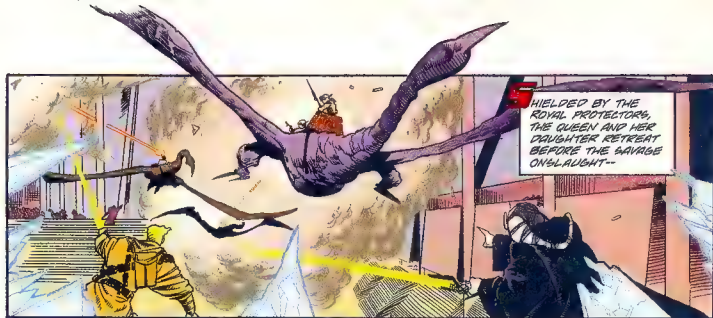
WILL YOU  
HELP US NOW...TO  
DEFEND OUR  
CITY?

YES.

WE  
WOULD BE  
HONORED

NO SOONER HAS ULIC GEL-PRAMA  
REPEATED HIS VOW TO BRING  
PEACE TO UDERON, THAN HE AND  
HIS COMRADES ARE FORCED TO  
PUT WORDS INTO ACTION!

BY THE  
TWI'LEK GODDESS--  
IT'S THE SAME BUNCH  
THAT SWARMED THE  
RANGER!



SHIELDED BY THE ROYAL PROTECTOR, THE QUEEN AND HER DAUGHTER RETREAT BEFORE THE SAVAGE ONSLAUGHT--

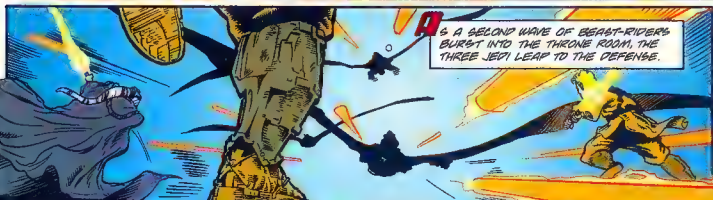


THERE'S MORE OF 'EM DROPPING OUT OF THE SKY!

LAY<sup>IN</sup> TOTT...ARE YOU WITH ME?

WE'RE WITH YOU BROTHER!

LET'S TAKE 'EM!

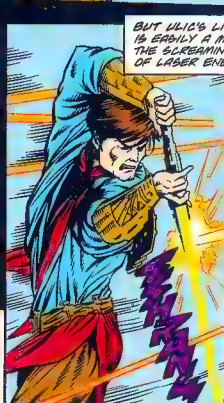


AS A SECOND WAVE OF BEAST-RIDERS BURST INTO THE THRONE ROOM, THE THREE JEDI LEAP TO THE DEFENSE.

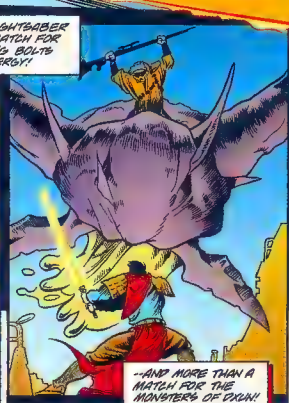


THE BEAST-RIDERS ARE ARMED WITH POWERFUL BLAST-RIFLES--

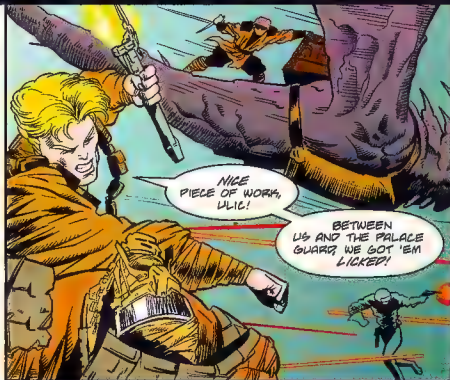
FWEE WHIRL!



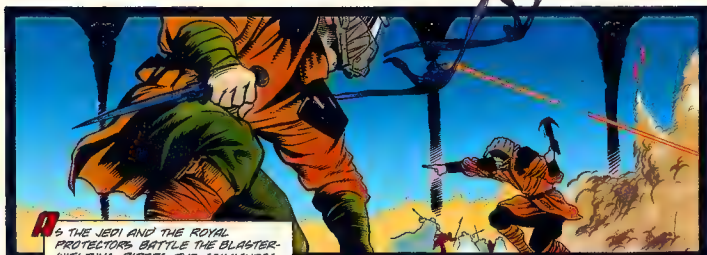
BUT ULIC'S LIGHTSABER IS EASILY A MATCH FOR THE SCREAMING BOLTS OF LASER ENERGY!



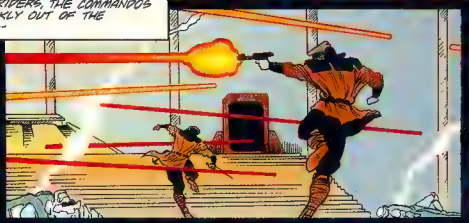
--AND MORE THAN A MATCH FOR THE MONSTERS OF OXAN!



**BEAST WARRIOR COMMANDOS!**



**A**S THE JEDI AND THE ROYAL PROTECTORS BATTLE THE BLASTER-WIELDING RIDERS, THE COMMANDOS MOVE QUICKLY OUT OF THE FIREFIGHT--



UIC--  
SOME OF THE  
BEAST BOYS ARE  
STEPPIN'  
OUT!

I'LL BET A  
HUTT'S RANDOM THEY'RE  
AFTER THE QUEEN!



OKAY--  
TOT, YOU AND  
CAY FOLLOW  
THEM. I'LL KEEP  
THIS BUNCH  
BUG!

ARE YOU  
KIDDING? YOU  
CAN'T HANDLE  
THESE GUYS  
ALONE!



DON'T  
WORRY ABOUT  
ME--WORRY  
ABOUT YOUR  
DUTY...AS A  
JEDI!



RIGHT.  
LET'S GO,  
CAY!



WHILE TOTY DONEETHA AND CAY GELDROMA ATTEMPT TO TRACK THEIR OPPONENTS THROUGH THE MAZE OF CORRIDORS, THE BEAST WARRIOR COMMANDOS SEEM TO KNOW THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO THE ROYAL QUARTERS!

STAND AND DIE, INVADERS!



DID HE SAY DIE?

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.

FWEE-OWW



SKREE-KRAH!

FWEE-OWW!



CURSED ENEMIES! I WILL DOWN THE POWER OF FREEDON NADD UPON THEE--

IF IT'S MAGIC QUEEN AMANDA WANTS TO INVOKE, THEN SHE'S EITHER TOO OLD AND SLOW--OR THE COMMANDOS ARE EQUIPPED WITH SPECIAL PROTECTION.





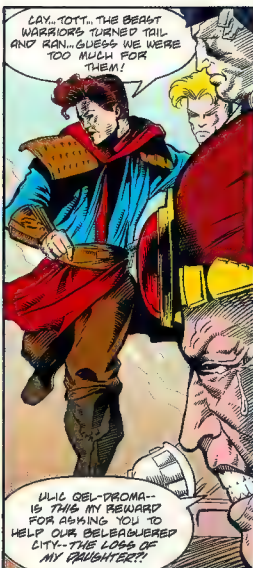
CAY GEL-DROMA AND TOTT PANEETHA ARRIVE TOO LATE!

WHERE'S THE GIRL?



GONE... MY DAUGHTER... GONE!

CURSED JEDI! YOU SAID YOU CAME TO PROTECT US!



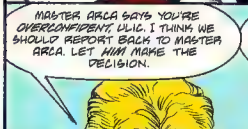
LAY... TOTT... THE BEAST WARRIORS TURNED TAIL AND RAN... GUESS WE WERE TOO MUCH FOR THEM!

ULIC GEL-DROMA-- IS THIS MY REWARD FOR ASKING YOU TO HELP OUR BELEAGUERED CITY--THE LOSS OF MY DAUGHTER?!



I DEMAND, IN THE NAME OF THE REPUBLIC, THAT YOU GO AFTER THE MIDNAPPERS AND BRING HER BACK!

ULIC YIELDS AT ONCE TO THE OLD WOMAN'S DEMANDS--BUT CAY AND TOTT SENSE DARK FORCES AT WORK HERE--



MASTER ARCA SAYS YOU'RE OVERCONFIDENT, ULIC. I THINK WE SHOULD REPORT BACK TO MASTER ARCA. LET HIM MAKE THE DECISION.



NO! IT'S TIME FOR US TO PROVE TO MASTER ARCA THAT WE ARE WORTHY OF BEING CALLED JEDI KNIGHTS!



I DON'T KNOW, ULIC... I DON'T TRUST THESE PEOPLE SOMETHING ABOUT THEM...



BUT HEADSTRONG ULIC WILL NOT BE DISSUADED HE SEES AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE HIS COURAGE--AND HE TAKES IT.



QUEEN AMANOA... WE LEAVE AT ONCE FOR THE WILDS OF ONDERON.

WE WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL WE HAVE FREED YOUR DAUGHTER!

**4** **HEADSTRONG AND OVERCONFIDENT-** ARCA HAS INDEED USED THOSE WORDS TO DESCRIBE HIS APPRENTICE. AND YET HE MADE ULIC GEL-PRIMA HIS CHARGE. IT IS ULIC'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE COURSE OF ACTION FOR THE UNDERON MISSION.

OVERRIDING THE DOUBTS OF HIS COMPANIONS, ULIC GEL-PRIMA TAKES THE NEBULON RANGER TO THE SKIES.

WHILE THE UNDERONIANS PREPARE THEIR OWN GROUND-BASED RESCUE MISSION, THE FAST AND AGILE JEDI CRUISER TRAVERSES THE OUTLANDS. ITS SENSORS TRAINED ON THE FLEEING KIDNAPERS.

**5** **S**UDDENLY LAY GEL-PRIMA HAS FRESH REASON TO WONDER IF HIS BROTHER HAS BEEN TOO HASTY--

THESE BEAST BOYS DON'T MESS AROUND. A SEEKER-TORPEDO JUST LEFT THE GROUND!

HIT THE SHIELDS, TOTT!



# JEDI JOURNALS

10956 SE MAIN ST., MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Dear *Tales* Creative Team:

Having just completed reading the first issue of *Tales of the Jedi*, I must say that the book is quite an unexpected change for the *Star Wars* universe. People may hesitate before reading a *Star Wars*-related story without mention of Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader, or any of the familiar characters from the well-known trilogy. I must admit that at first I avoided reading it and wasn't sure what to expect. Nevertheless, the change was a needed one.

It is refreshing to see a story that captures the spirit—or "force"—of *Star Wars* while telling the story with totally unknown characters. Tom Veitch's ability to hold my attention without a rehash of dialogue and events from the trilogy of films (which seems to show up in a lot of "new" *Star Wars* adventures) is outstanding. His talent has successfully brought him through *Dark Empire* and I think he will also make *Tales of the Jedi* a good story, true to the *Star Wars* name.

What can be said about the artwork? Excellent! Nothing more, or less.

I think that for the first time since the *Star Wars* universe was originally set before us with the release of the first film in 1977, an attempt has been made to create a brand-new universe with new characters and new settings without mention of known characters and events. The Force is still present, as are the Jedi, for without these it would be very difficult to call it *Star Wars*. This way there is still a sense of familiarity. Not to say that the heroes and villains of the first trilogy have used up their welcome, but more that it is good to see a parallel *Star Wars* universe that can be welcomed.

One question regarding *Dark Empire*: Are there any plans for further printings of the deluxe hardcover signed edition? I missed my chance of getting the book and I suspect that people who bought one are not going to part with it anytime soon!

Josh Ling  
Los Angeles, CA

Sorry, Josh, but that deluxe hardcover limited edition of *Dark Empire* was a one-time-only deal. If ya missed it, ya missed it forever! Luckily, if you don't already have it, the softcover is still in print.

The Gang at Dark Horse:

While at the San Diego Con this year, I had the pleasure of meeting Tom Veitch, Cam Kennedy, and Chris Gossett, the

creators behind your *Star Wars* line of comics. I had the honor of receiving a B&W preview copy of the first issue of *Tales of the Jedi*, and I have to say that I can't wait to see it all in color!

Chris Gossett's pencils are fantastic! Wherever you found him, keep him! Chris is sure to become a "hot" artist in short order, with a truly unique style. So many of today's newcomers seem to be imitating someone else's style of artwork and make it their own, but this is not the case with Chris. He has the ability to render characters/creatures as well as all of the ships and hardware with precision, clarity, and a personal style that brings the characters to life. I look forward to seeing how his pencils look after they've been colored. If this is some of his early work, his stuff on *Dark Lords of the Sith* must be truly spectacular! What has Chris done, if anything, prior to his stint on *TOTJ*?

Tom Veitch's writing goes without saying. I really enjoyed *Dark Empire*, but this work truly shines. Perhaps it has to do with the fact that the characters in *TOTJ* are his own creation, and we have no preconceived notions of how the characters are supposed to act. That is a problem with writing pre-existing heroes many people have come to know and love: readers go into the story knowing in their minds and hearts how Luke, Leia, Han, and the others behave. Now, with Ulic Qel-Droma, we have no preconceptions. Tom can do whatever he wants and it will be new to us! Absolutely marvelous intro to Ulic, Cay, and Tott! I can't wait for more!

Dave Dorman's cover is, as usual, awesome. It would be great to have a color portfolio of all of Dave's covers from *Dark Empire* and *Tales of the Jedi*. Is there any chance of seeing this at some point?

Besides *Tales of the Jedi* and *Dark Lords of the Sith*, what other *Star Wars* projects can we expect from you guys at Dark Horse? Keep up the fantastic work, and until we learn the origins of the Jedi and the Force, make mine Dark Horse! And may the Force be with you...always.

Skip Shayotovich  
Moderator of the  
*Star Wars Echo*

Thanks, Skip! For all you non-hackers out there, the *Star Wars Echo* is an E-mail panel on Fidonet concerning all things that happened a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. I highly recommend checking it out if you can! And if anyone

out there shares Skip's interest in the early works of Chris Gossett, check out *Black Angel*, a character that appeared in a small press comic called *Tales of the Ninja Warriors*.

As for shedding some light on future *Star Wars* comics, look for a *Tales of the Jedi* special in early summer (which foreshadows events in *Dark Lords of the Sith*, which is scheduled for late summer), and the sequel to *Dark Empire* in the fall of '94 (by Tom and Cam Kennedy, of course). In addition to that, Dark Horse is in the process of putting together a mega *Star Wars* series that will knock your socks off. I'll have more details next month!

Dear Dark Horse:

I have just read a preview copy of *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi*, and I wanted to share a few of my impressions. This is going to be fantastic! The artwork reflects the period, giving the reader a good feel for the early days of the Republic. The clothes, ships, and equipment have a feeling of hi-tech antiquity. The Jedi are not drawn as "super-hunks," nor are they very machine looking. One of my favorite panels is the last panel on page 12 (the three Jedi by the campfire).

I started reading the story with the attitude that the absence of Luke and friends would detract from my enjoyment of the tale. By the time I was partway through, however, it no longer mattered. I can't wait to find out what happens in issue two! The only downside is that it appears that we are off on another Princess rescue again. Couldn't we get away from Jedi saving young royalty? Of course, this is a preview, and things can change during the rest of the series. Don't forget there are all kinds of *Star Wars* fans. Could we see some true functioning female Jedi just as capable of saving the galaxy as men?

I can't wait to see the first issue in color. I'm sure *Tales of the Jedi* will be a huge success!

Jennie Jivan  
Scottsdale, AZ

Now, now, Jennie, don't jump to conclusions! You'll be guaranteed a surprise by next issue's turn of events concerning Princess Galia, and if female Jedi are what you crave, then make sure to stick around for issues 3-5 of *TOTJ*. Therein we will tell the complete tale of Nomi Sunider (fans of *Dark Horse Comics* may find that name familiar).

**Nomi will be a crucial player in *Dark Lords of the Sith*, so keep an eye on her!**

Dear Mr. Thorsland:

Thank you very much for the preview copy of *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi*. I was away for the summer, working at camp, so I'm afraid my comments are somewhat late. However, I'd still like to share my thoughts.

I've read it twice now, and enjoyed it far more the second time. The first time through, I was gauging it against *Dark Empire*, and it paled horribly by comparison. I realize now that it was not a fair comparison. As your advertising copy is careful to state, this is four thousand years before *A New Hope* takes place. The galaxy-spanning civilizations are yet to be, as the Republic is only now beginning to grow. This is history, and read in that light, it is fascinating.

In a way, it reminds me of the first half of *A New Hope*, as we watch Luke Skywalker living on the backworld of Tatooine. There's an innocence to Arkania and Onderon, and a wonder in their knowing nothing of Death Stars, Nar Shaddaa, nor of Dark Lords such as Vader and Palpatine. However, especially from Tom Veitch's comments in *Dark Horse Comics* #7, I assume that we're going to see a glimpse of the beginning of the Dark Lords. I'm looking forward to seeing where this story takes us!

The art is fantastic! Chris Gossett and Mike Barreiro have done some wonderful layouts that make the pages a joy to look at. The story carries well from panel to panel. In a way, I wish that the comic book itself could be in black and white; looking through the photocopies, in all but a few instances the art doesn't need color.

Those things said, I'd like to move into more general comments. First, I hope that you will be continuing the story of Nomi Sunrider from *Dark Horse Comics*. I want to see more of her.

Also, I hope that the new miniseries will have text pages similar to those we've seen already. So much work obviously goes into planning the main story, leaving so much background information left unsaid, that they can be fascinating reading. In novels, my favorite part is often the foreword or afterward. Their insight into the author's imagination can be quite interesting.

I'm excited by the fact that 1994 will be "chock-full of new *Star Wars* projects" because there are so many things that can be done. *Tales of the Jedi* is obviously the first step, and I can't help wondering what the next projects will be. We've been promised *Droids* and a sequel to *Dark Empire*, and beyond that I'd like to suggest that we also see some events from between the films. I would love to see a series in which Al Williamson is allowed to just go wild, and there are plenty of climactic events, especially between *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi* which would make for great miniseries. You have

the opportunity to establish some great retroactive continuity, and I hope you use it.

My thanks again for the preview, and I'm looking forward to the series. My only regret is that I've a far longer wait between issues one and two than I'd otherwise have. There's a price to pay for advance knowledge!

Matt Bracher  
Kent, WA

I agree with you that Chris and Mike's work may not *need* color, but the idea is to have line art that works well on its own, then add color to bring the art to another level. The talented Ms. Rambo (no relation) strove to do just that, and I hope you write back with your impressions of her work, Matt. Oh, by the way, the name's Dan!

Dear Mr. Thorsland:

Hi! I'm one of the many *Star Wars* fans that you handed out a preview copy of *Tales of the Jedi*.

The first time I looked at it I pretty much turned the pages and read a little from each one. The next time I read it thoroughly and noticed that this new Jedi, Ulic Qel-Droma, is very overconfident in himself and his powers. I thought about it for a while, and knew that this Jedi, at some time in his future, would surely turn to the Dark Side. After all, a Jedi's powers are from himself, but also from the Force. (Or as Yoda might say to this: "Not this crude matter.")

Then I began to remember my *Star Wars: Dark Empire* comics and the stories of Jedi Knights in the back text pages. I searched in the back for fallen Jedi and, as I thought, I saw the name Qel-Droma there and his story of trying to turn the Krath from the Dark Side by learning their secrets. But "As I have foreseen," he too fell to the Dark Side.

The story is great, the art wonderful. Oh, and I almost forgot to ask: Who is the writer and artist on *TOTJ*? Are they the same as *Dark Empire*? Please tell me everything you can of the greatest science-fiction adventure ever: *Star Wars*!

Monarose Faul  
Encinitas, CA

Indeed, Ulic's future will take a dark path in *Dark Lords of the Sith*, but as Luke has proven, a Jedi can return from the Dark Side, so don't count Ulic out yet! As for the creative team, check this issue's credits, Monarose, and *call me DAN!!*

Dear Dan:

Imagine my surprise when, after talking to you at the San Diego Con, you handed me this great advance copy of *Tales of the Jedi* #1. Having enjoyed *Dark Empire* immensely, I was pleased as heck to be able to review this new storyline for you. My only regret is that the credits page

wasn't included, so I can't give the proper people their due.

*This book is hot property!*

The story was everything I hoped it might be. It had that taste of galactic vastness that we've come to associate with the *Star Wars* mythos, as well as introducing new and dynamic characters. Four thousand years in the past... Wow! I had no idea the Jedi went back that far. Since Arca is an established master, they obviously go back even farther. Ulic reminds me of Luke Skywalker with his youthful bravado. As he figures to be a major player in this new series, do me a favor: Don't make him too predictable! The look Ulic and the princess exchanged on page 18 was very telling. I'd almost prefer to see her fall for his brother Cay, or even Tott. (Okay, that might be stretching it!) Speaking of Tott, what a good move to make a Twi'lek (That is his species name, isn't it?) one of the young Jedi knights. The only other time I can recall seeing one is by the side of Jabba the Hutt, whispering advice into Jabba's ear. This is interesting, in that a species isn't necessarily bad based on the actions of individuals or the way they look. (They do look pretty gnarly, don't you think?)

My vote as to the identity of the traitor goes to Novar. He's already set himself up as a jerk and it stands to reason that it would have to be someone in a high position to accomplish the weakening of defenses required for the bad guys to gain access to the throne room. It'll be interesting to see how this plays out.

I have a request. I would like to see (Lucas willing) the different aspects of the Force explored and used more. That was the single thing that made the films so wonderfully dynamic, so let's see more, more, more!

About the art. I liked it a lot overall and felt it did a great job of depicting the events. I did, however, feel that the backgrounds could have been developed more. I wanted to see more details of the countryside and the walled city. A minor complaint, at best—keep up the good work! I look eagerly forward to future issues. The *Star Wars* films and books have captured the hearts and imaginations of millions of people, and it's wonderful to see that you and your company are carrying on that tradition.

Bill Powers  
San Diego, CA

The energetic Mr. Gossett once spent a good fifteen minutes explaining the significance of a stone carving that is only seen in the background of *one panel* this issue. Rest assured that given the room, Chris and Mike will give you plenty of Onderonian detail to look at next month, Bill!

Twi'leks gnarly looking? Doesn't everyone have prehensile worm-like appendages growing out their heads?

See you all next month!

—Dan Thorsland